

## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

Bulgaria

REPORT

SUBJECT

Bulgarian Uniforms

DATE DISTR.

31 July 1959

*Descriptions & sketches*

NO. PAGES

1

REFERENCES

RD

DATE OF  
INFO.

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PLACE &  
DATE ACQ.

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

STATE	X ARMY #	X NAVY #	X AIR #	X FBI	AEC	NSA #	X	
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ATTACHMENT 69

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## BULGARIAN UNIFORMS (C)

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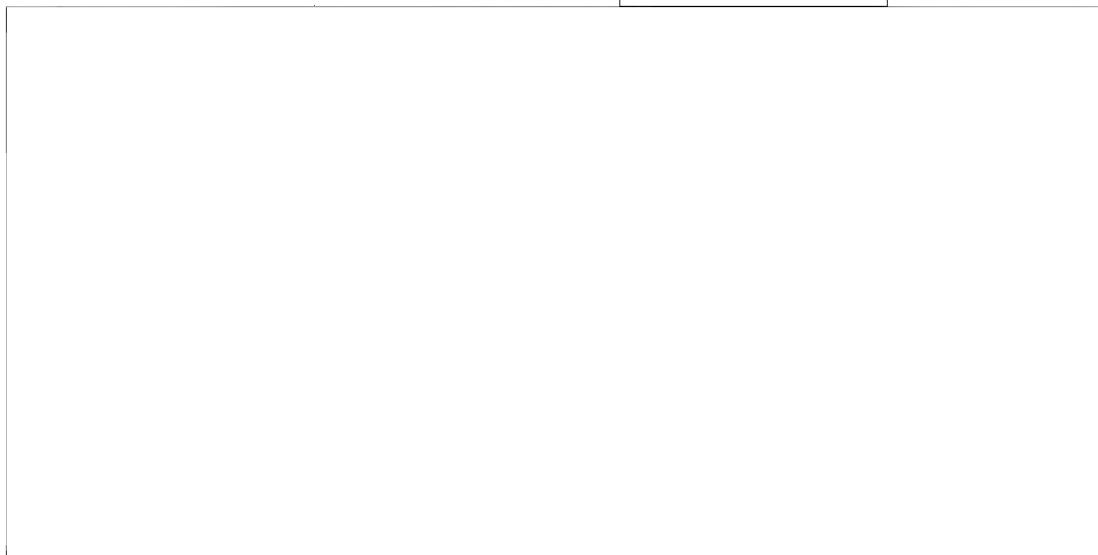
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BULGARIAN UNIFORMS

Introduction



A. BULGARIAN ARMY UNIFORMS

1. Officers' Uniforms (Ofitserска Униформа)

[redacted] all officers were annually allotted a certain amount of yard goods, leather, buckles, buttons, and other necessary materials with which they were supposed to maintain tailored uniforms. Neither the amount nor the method of issue were known [redacted]

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Some of the officers had piping designating their branch of service on their trousers and breeches. Whether this was compulsory or not was unknown [redacted] the presence or absence of this piping depended upon whether or not the piping was available and whether or not the tailor remembered to sew it on.

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a. Summer Uniform (Letna Uniforma)

This uniform (see Annex A) was worn by all Bulgarian Army officers. It was worn primarily in the field and consisted of five basic items:

- Service Cap (Furashka)
- Field Blouse (Gimnastyerka)
- Officer's Breeches (Ofitserski Brich)
- Sam Browne Belt (Kolan)
- Officer's Boots (Ofitserski Botushi)

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b. Winter Uniform (Zimna Uniforma)

This uniform (see Annexes B and C) was worn by all Bulgarian Army officers from junior lieutenants to colonels. It consisted essentially of six major items:

Service Cap (Furashka)  
Blouse (Kurka)  
Officer's Breeches (Ofitserski Brich)  
Officer's Boots (Ofitserski Botushi) (See Annex A)  
Officer's Greatcoat (Ofitserski Shinel) (See Annex C)  
Officer's Pile Cap (Ofitserска Ushanka) (See Annex C)  
Under extremely cold conditions, this item was worn in lieu of the service cap.

c. Parade Uniform (Paradna Uniforma)

This uniform (see Annex D) was worn by Bulgarian Army officers only on formal occasions. It consisted of the following four major items:

Service Cap (Furashka)  
Blouse (Kurka)  
Trousers (Pantalon)  
Shoes (Obuvki)

2. EM's Uniforms (Voinishka Uniforma)

These uniforms were worn by all Bulgarian Army and Air Force EM. When worn by Air Force EM, the only difference was that light-blue Air Force shoulder-boards were worn.

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The dark-brown bakelite buttons were sewed on with black or white thread. There was a copious supply of buttons at all shower points and supply rooms.

These cotton uniforms were of various shades of green after the first and subsequent washings.

Both officer and enlisted personnel had to furnish their own trouser-belts and gloves (or mittens).

White under-collars (bela yakichka) were apparently an item of issue to all personnel. This collar was made of white cotton, but it was in the process of being replaced by white nylon collars.

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a. Summer Uniform (Letna Uniforma)

This uniform (see Annex E) was similar to the EM's winter uniform (see Annex F); however, the material was different. The summer uniform was of a khaki twill, and consisted of the following five major items:

Overseas Cap (Pilotka)

Field Blouse (Gimnastyerka)

Trousers (Pantalon)

Service Shoes (Obuvki)

Belt (Kolan)

b. Winter Uniform (Zimna Uniforma)

This wool uniform (see Annex F) consisted of the following six major items:

Overseas Cap (Pilotka)

Field Blouse (Gimnastyerka)

Trousers (Pantalon)

Belt (Kolan)

Greatcoat (Shinel)

Service Shoes (Obuvki) (See Annex E)

The following three items were worn only by enlisted guard personnel, chauffeurs, and the Bulgarian militia:

Pile Coat (Kozhukh) (See Annex G)

Pile Cap (Ushanka) (See Annex G)

Guard Boots (Karaulni Botushi) (See Annex G)

B. BULGARIAN AIR FORCE UNIFORMS

1. Officers' Uniforms (Ofitserска Uniforma VVS)

a. Male Officer's Uniform

This uniform (see Annex H) was worn by all male Bulgarian Air Force officers, and consisted of the five following major items:

Service Cap (Furashka)

Blouse (Kurka)

Breeches (Brich)

During off-duty hours, this item was replaced by regular, full-length trousers (pantalon).

Officer's Boots (Ofitserski Botushi) (See Annex A)

During off-duty hours, this item was replaced by low-quarter shoes.

Light-gray Shirt

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b. Female Officer's Uniform

This uniform (see Annex I) was worn by all female Bulgarian Air Force officers, and, with the exception of the skirt, resembled the male officer's uniform described in paragraph B.1.a.;

2. EM's Uniforms

Bulgarian Air Force enlisted personnel wore the same uniform as the Army enlisted personnel, with the exception of the color of the shoulderboards, which in the case of the Air Force was blue.

C. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR TROOPS UNIFORMS

1. Officer's Uniform

Ministry of Interior troops officers wore the same type of uniform as the Army officers (see Annexes A, B, C, and D). Only the shoulderboards were different.

2. EM's Uniforms

Essentially, this uniform (see Annex J) was that of the Army EM; instead of trousers (pantaloni), which were worn only by Border Guard personnel, the personnel wore breeches (brich); and instead of the overseas cap, which was worn only by Border Guard personnel, the service cap (furashka) was worn.

All of the Ministry of Interior troop personnel wore leather, suspender-like belting and Ministry of Interior troops' shoulderboards.

All of the Ministry of Interior troops, with the exception of the Border Guard personnel, wore jackboots.

D. LABOR SERVICE TROOPS (TRUDOVI-VOISKI) UNIFORMS

1. Officer's Uniform

This uniform (see Annex K) except for the color, was the same as the Bulgarian Air Force officer's uniform. No shoulderboards were worn.

2. EM's Uniform

This uniform (see Annex L) was worn by all Labor Service troops enlisted personnel. It was made of the same materials as the Army EM's winter and summer uniforms; however, when these personnel were at work, they would usually work in the most non-uniform attire possible.

E. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT

Bulgarian Paratroop Boots (Parashutistki Obuvki)

These boots (see Item 1, Annex M) were worn only by parachutists, and then only during their jumps.

Entrenching Shovel (Shantsov Instrument) (See Item 2, Annex M)

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Canteen (Manerka, sometimes referred to as "Materka") (See Item 3, Annex M.)

Map Case (Planshetka) (See Item 4, Annex M.)

Helmet (Kaska) (See Item 5, Annex M.)

Gas Mask (Protivogaz) (See Item 6, Annex M.)

Back Pack (Ranitsa) (See Item 7, Annex M.)

Gas Mask (Protivogaz) (See Item 8, Annex M.)

Star Emblem (Zvezda) (See Item 9, Annex M.)

Bulgarian Army Officer's Button (Ofitserska Kopche) (See Item 10, Annex M.)

F. BULGARIAN SHOULDERBOARDS (See Annex N.)

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the rank system followed the Soviet pattern, that there was a recent exclusion (during 1958) of the private first class (efreytor), and that the master sergeant shoulderboard was subsequently eliminated to compensate for the abolished PFC rank.

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# BULGARIAN OFFICER'S SUMMER UNIFORM



OFFICER'S BELT  
BUCKLE

COLOR OF HAT  
BAND AND  
SHOULDER BOARDS

SHADE OF UNIFORM  
MATERIAL

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25X1

Annex A

SKETCH OF A BULGARIAN ARMY OFFICER'S SUMMER UNIFORM

25X1



Legend:

1. Service Cap (Furashka)

The body of this cap was constructed of so-called "officer's gabardine" (ofitserski gabardin). The leather chinstrap around the bottom circumference of the cap was of black lacquered leather, and the visor was of black stamped celluloid. The inside of the cap was lined with cotton and had a natural-colored leather sweatband.

2. Field Blouse (Gimnastyerka)

This was a pull-over garment made of "officer's gabardine." It had three brass-colored metal buttons (see Item 10, Annex M) on the front closure, two on the stand-up collar, and two on each cuff. It had two single-flap breast pockets; each flap was fastened by a single button. This blouse was worn with a white cotton collar tacked inside the garment's collar and exposed only for a few millimeters. On each shoulder, there was a small strap to which the shoulderboards were fastened. This blouse was always worn with the Sam Browne-type belt. This blouse had gathers sewed in the back.

3. Officer's Breeches (Ofitserski Brich)

These were jodhpur-styled breeches, made of "officer's gabardine." They had a button fly and had laces to pass under the feet inside the boots.

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25X1

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Legend to Annex A  
(Continued)

4. Sam Browne Belt (Kolan)

The officer's belt buckle (ofitserska toka) differed from the EM's belt buckle in that it had a double metal tongue instead of a single tongue.

5. Officer's Boots (Ofitserski Botushi)

These boots were constructed of a fairly good quality leather and had a full leather sole and a leather heel with a horseshoe tap.

(Ministry of Interior Troops' enlisted personnel, with the exception of the Border Guards, wore a similar type of boots, which were of much poorer quality - a coarse leather, and had hobnailed soles.)

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BULGARIAN  
OFFICER'S WINTER UNIFORM



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25X1

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Annex B

[REDACTED] SKETCH OF A BULGARIAN ARMY OFFICER'S WINTER UNIFORM

25X1



Legend:

1. Service Cap (Furashka)

The body of this cap was constructed of an "officer's winter gabardine" (a very coarse, wool, twill gabardine). The leather chinstrap around the bottom circumference of the cap was of black lacquered leather, and the visor was of black stamped celluloid. The inside of the cap was lined with cotton and had a natural-colored leather sweatband.

2. Blouse (Kurka)

This item, made of "officer's winter gabardine," was fitted at the waist, and had a padded chest (which enhanced the physique of the most shallow-chested officer). There was no button on the collar, which was fastened with a concealed hook and eye. There were two breast pockets, the flaps of which were fastened by a single button on each pocket. The jacket was fastened by either five or six brass-colored metal buttons. Although it is not depicted on the sketch, [REDACTED] there was piping approximately 8 to 10 cm from the edge of the cuffs encircling the sleeve.

25X1

3. Officer's Breeches (Ofitserskiy Brich)

These were jodhpur-styled breeches, made of "officer's winter gabardine." They had a button fly, and also had laces which passed under the feet inside the boots.

4. Officer's Boots (Ofitserski Botushi) (See Annex A for [REDACTED] sketch)

25X1

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BULGARIAN  
OFFICER'S WINTER UNIFORM  
(w/greatcoat and pile cap)



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25X1

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Annex C

SKETCH OF A BULGARIAN ARMY OFFICER'S WINTER UNIFORM (WITH GREATCOAT AND PILE CAP)

25X1

Legend:

1. Officer's Greatcoat (Ofitserski Shinel)

This coat was made of a blanket-type, special processed wool material, which was bluish and extremely heavy. This material was allegedly not to be found among the civilian populace. The coat had two, deep, large, horizontal, slash pockets, many gathers below the belt line; in the rear, the coat was slit to the belt. The slit and the other openings of the coat were fastened with metallic buttons. There were extremely deep cuffs on the sleeves, which made them useful for the storage of personal items.

2. Officer's Pile Cap (Ofitserska Ushanka)

This item was made of a heavy, re-processed material, and covered with a synthetic fur. A star emblem was worn in the center of the front of the turned-up visor.

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BULGARIAN  
OFFICER'S PARADE UNIFORM



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25X1

Annex D

SKETCH OF A BULGARIAN ARMY OFFICER'S PARADE UNIFORM

25X1

Legend:

1. Service Cap (Furashka)

This item was identical to the previously described officer's winter service cap (see Item 1, Annex B).

2. Blouse (Kurka)

This blouse was identical to the officer's winter blouse previously mentioned in Item 2, Annex B. Its only distinction was that it was a reserve blouse and had not lost its original color.

3. Trousers (Pantalon)

These were black and cuffless, with possibly one (right) hip pocket, and narrow braid on the sides of the pant legs designating the branch of service.

4. Shoes (Obuvki)

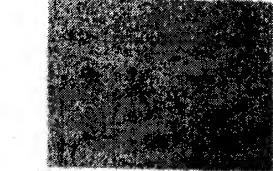
These could be any type of black, plain, laced, low-quarter shoes.

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BULGARIAN  
EM UNIFORM



OVERSEAS CAP



SHADE OF SUMMER  
UNIFORM MATERIAL



SHADE OF WINTER  
UNIFORM MATERIAL

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25X1

Annex E

SKETCH OF A BULGARIAN ARMY EM'S UNIFORM

25X1



Legend:

1. Overseas Cap (Pilotka)

this item resembled the Soviet overseas cap, with the exception that the top of the cap did not spread open, and that it had more of a curve to fit the contour of the head. The red star emblem (see Item 9, Annex M) was worn at the front of this cap.

25X1

2. Field Blouse (Gimnastyerka)

This was a pull-over garment made of dark green wool for winter or of khaki twill for summer. It had three bakelite buttons on the front closure, two at the stand-up collar, and two at each cuff. It had two, single-flap, breast pockets, and each flap was fastened by a single button. This blouse was worn with a white cotton collar tacked inside the garment's collar and exposed only for a few millimeters. On each shoulder, there was a small strap, to which the shoulderboards were fastened. This blouse was always worn with the EM's belt (poyas). (See Annex F for  sketch of this belt).

25X1

25X1

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25X1

Legend to Annex E

(Continued)

3. Trousers (Pantaloni)

These trousers were constructed of the same material as the field blouse, depending upon the season. This item had two horizontal-slash pockets in front and a button fly. Personnel had to provide their own belts for their pants, the legs of which were bloused by means of two strips of fabric, each with two buttonholes and two buttons.

4. Service Shoes (Obuvki)

These service shoes, worn by all enlisted personnel in the Army, Air Force, and Border Guard Troops, were of black leather and had a leather heel (with a horse-shoe tap) and hobnailed leather soles.

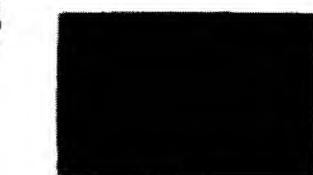
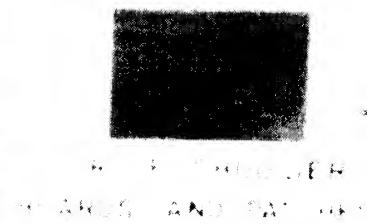
5. Belt (Kolan or Poyas)

See Annex F for [redacted] sketch of this belt.

25X1

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BULGARIAN  
EM. WINTER UNIFORM



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25X1

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Annex F

SKETCH OF A BULGARIAN ARMY EM'S WINTER UNIFORM (WITH GREATCOAT) 25X1

Legend:

This uniform consisted of the EM's uniform (winter), similar to the EM summer uniform (Annex E) as previously reported, together with the EM's greatcoat (shinel).

This greatcoat resembled the officer's greatcoat, with the following exceptions: The coat was made of a lighter-weight material, of a different color, and of a poorer quality; the coat was not lined; the bottom hem of the coat was not edged, but was apparently stamped; bakelite buttons were substituted for metallic buttons.

The Bulgarian EM's belt buckle is also depicted on this annex. This item, referred to as "poyas" and "kolan," was constructed of black leather. The distinguishing feature between the officer's belt and the EM's belt was the buckle. The EM's buckle was an ordinary frame with a single metal tongue.

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BULGARIAN  
E.M. ANKLE-LENGTH PILE COAT

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25X1

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Annex G

SKETCH OF A BULGARIAN ARMY EM'S ANKLE-LENGTH PILE COAT

25X1

Legend:

1. Pile Coat (Kozhukh)

This item was an enormous greatcoat, which was worn by EM on guard and chauffeur duty during the winter, as well as by the Bulgarian militia. The color and type of material of this coat resembled that of the Bulgarian officer's greatcoat. The inside was sheepskin lined. This coat had a large stand-up collar and very deep, horizontal - slash pockets.

2. Pile Cap (Ushanka)

This was a cloth, synthetic fur-covered pile cap, with a star emblem on the front of the turned-up visor.

3. Guard Boots (Karaulni Botushi)

These guard boots, or winter overshoes, were worn only by guard personnel during the winter. The item was constructed of pressed felt and had a heavy rubber sole. These boots were worn over the normal EM's footgear (voinishki obuvki).

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BULGARIAN  
AIR FORCE OFFICER'S



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25X1

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Annex H

[REDACTED] SKETCH OF A BULGARIAN AIR FORCE OFFICER'S UNIFORM [REDACTED]



Legend:

1. Service Cap (Furashka)

This cap was of a blue, re-processed wool, with black leather trimmings and a visor which was black, stamped celluloid. The Air Force insignia was worn above the visor on the cap.

2. Blouse (Kurka)

The blouse was made of a blue, re-processed wool. It had a vent in the back, and was worn over a very light-gray shirt. There were four patch pockets on this blouse, each fastened with a brass-colored metallic button.

[REDACTED] Pilot's wings insignia and/or a parachutist emblem were worn on the left breast pocket.

25X1

25X1

3. Breeches (Brich)

These were jodhpur-styled breeches made of the same blue, re-processed wool as the blouse. They had a button fly and had laces to pass under the feet inside of the boots.

4. Officer's Boots (Ofitserski Botushi)

See Annex A for [REDACTED] sketch of these boots.

25X1

5. Light-Gray Shirt

This was an ordinary cotton shirt.

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BULGARIAN  
AIR FORCE OFFICER'S

(female)



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25X1

Annex I

SKETCH OF A FEMALE BULGARIAN AIR FORCE OFFICER'S UNIFORM

25X1

Legend:

1. Service Cap (Furashka)

This cap was of a blue, re-processed wool, with black leather trimmings and a visor which was black, stamped celluloid. The Air Force insigne was worn above the visor on the cap.

2. Blouse (Kurka)

The blouse was made of a blue, re-processed wool. It had a vent in the back and was worn over a very light-gray shirt. There were four patch pockets on this blouse, each fastened with a brass-colored metallic button.

Pilot's wings  
insigne and/or a parachutist emblem were worn on the left breast pocket.

25X1  
25X1

3. Skirt

This skirt was made of the same blue, re-processed wool as the blouse.

4. Shoes

These were black, leather, plain, laced shoes with a low heel.

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BULGARIAN  
INTERIOR TROOPS UNIFORM

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25X1

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Annex J

SKETCH OF A BULGARIAN MINISTRY OF INTERIOR TROOPS EM'S UNIFORM

25X1



Legend:

1. Service Cap (Furashka)

The body of this cap was made of dark-green wool. The leather chin-strap, around the bottom circumference of the cap was of black lacquered leather, and the visor was of black stamped celluloid. The inside of the cap was lined with cotton and had a natural-colored leather sweatband. Around the outside part of the headband was a light-blue band designating Ministry of Interior troops. The red star emblem was worn on this colored band, centered above the visor.

2. Field Blouse (Gimnastyerka)

This was the same field blouse (winter and summer) as that which was worn by all Army personnel.

3. Breeches (Brich)

These breeches were constructed of dark-green wool. They were of a jodhpur-style, had a button fly, and had laces to pass under the feet inside the boots.

4. Boots

These boots resembled the officer's boots, except that they were of much poorer quality - of a coarse leather, and had hobnailed soles.

5. Belt (Kolan)

This was basically the EM's belt with an added harness belting and two leather pouches (presumed to be ammunition pouches).

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BULGARIAN  
LABOR SERVICE  
OFFICER'S UNIFORM

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Annex K

SKETCH OF A BULGARIAN LABOR SERVICE OFFICER'S UNIFORM

25X1



Legend:

1. Service Cap (Furashka)

The body of this cap was made of "officer's gabardine." The leather chinstrap around the bottom circumference of the cap was of green-lacquered leather, and the visor was covered with green material. The inside of the cap was lined with cotton and had a natural-colored leather sweatband.

2. Blouse (Kurka)

The blouse was made of a green, re-processed wool. It had a vent in back and was worn over a light-green shirt. There were four patch pockets on this blouse, each fastened with a brass-colored metallic button.

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3. Breeches (Brich)

These were jodhpur-styled breeches, made of the same green, re-processed wool as the blouse. They had a button fly and had laces to pass under the feet inside of the boots.

4. Officer's Boots (Ofitserski Botushi)

See Annex A for [redacted] sketch of these boots.

25X1

5. Light-Green Shirt

This was an ordinary cotton shirt.

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BULGARIAN

LABOR SERVICE ENLISTED MAN'S  
UNIFORM

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25X1

Annex L

SKETCH OF A BULGARIAN LABOR SERVICE EM'S UNIFORM

25X1



Legend:

1. Cap

This was a peaked cap with a visor constructed entirely of re-processed wool and with a star emblem on the front center piece.

2. Blouse (Kurka)

This item was made of the same materials as the Army EM's uniforms (winter and summer). This blouse had four or five buttons (composition unknown) for the front closure, a wing-collar, two patch-pockets fastened by one button on each, and was worn with the EM's belt. (See Annex F for sketch of this belt).

25X1

3. Trousers (Pantaloni)

These trousers were made of the same material as the blouse, depending upon the season. This item had two horizontal-slash pockets in front and a button fly. Personnel had to provide their own belts for their pants, the legs of which were bloused by means of two strips of fabric, each with two buttonholes and two buttons.

4. Service Shoes (Obuvki)

See Annex E for sketch of these shoes.

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Annex M

25X1

SKETCH OF MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS OF BULGARIAN PERSONAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT



Legend:

Item 1. Bulgarian Paratroop Boots (Parashutistki Obuvki)

These boots were of black leather with square-cut rubber heels, composition soles, and a full-lacing front.

Item 2. Entrenching Shovel (Shantsov Instrument)

This shovel was of wood and metal construction; it was worn in a leather case attached to the right side of the back pack.

Item 3. Canteen (Materka and/or Manerka)

This canteen was of all-metal construction with a canvas covering. It was worn hooked to the right side of the back pack by means of a snap-fastener.

Item 4. Map Case (Planshetka)

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Legend to Annex M  
(Continued)

Item 5. Helmet (Kaska)

[redacted] this item was a hybrid of a WW II German helmet and a Soviet helmet. 25X1

Item 6. Gas Mask (Protivogaz)

This was an old WW II German gas mask, which was still being issued to approximately 50 percent of the personnel, but which was in the process of being replaced by an unidentified Soviet gas mask (see Item 8 of this annex).

Item 7. Back Pack (Ranitsa)

This item was constructed of canvas. No further information.

Item 8. Gas Mask (Protivogaz)

This unidentified Soviet gas mask was replacing the WW II German gas masks (see Item 6 of this annex) used by the Bulgarian Army.

Item 9. Star Emblem (Zvezda)

Item 10. Bulgarian Army Officer's Button (Ofitserska Kopche)

Buttons for officer's items of clothing were of metal, stamped construction, brass-colored, and with a raised star.

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SHOULDERBOARDS



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Annex N

SKETCH OF BULGARIAN SHOULDERBOARDS



Legend:

Item 1. Private (Rednik)

Item 2. Junior Sergeant (Mladshi Serzhant)

Item 3. Sergeant (Serzhant)

Item 4. Senior Sergeant (Starshi Serzhant)

Item 5. Master Sergeant (Starshina)

Item 6. EM's Re-enlistment Chevrons (the significance of each chevron  ).

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Item 7. Junior Lieutenant (Mladshi Leytenant)

25X1

Item 8. Lieutenant (Leytenant)

Item 9. Senior Lieutenant (Starshi Leytenant)

Item 10. Captain (Kapitan)

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Legend to Annex N  
(Continued)

Item 11. Major (Major)

Item 12. Lieutenant Colonel (Podpolkovnik)

Item 13. Colonel (Polkovnik)

Item 14. Combat Branch Private (These were black shoulderboards with a raspberry piping.)

Item 15. Ministry of Interior Troops Private (These were blue shoulderboards with a raspberry piping.)

Item 16. Air Force Private (Blue shoulderboards)

Item 17. Air Force Company Grade Officers (These were gold shoulderboards with light blue piping.)

Item 18. Medical Lieutenant's Shoulderboard (These were gold shoulderboards with raspberry piping and a caduceus emblem.)

Item 19. Musician Lieutenant's Shoulderboard (These were gold shoulderboards with raspberry piping and a lyre emblem.)

Item 20. Artillery Lieutenant's Shoulderboards (These were gold shoulderboards with black piping and a crossed artillery tubes emblem.)

Item 21. Tank Lieutenant's Shoulderboard (These were gold shoulderboards with black piping and a tank emblem.)

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